

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 04383 140605Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 AS-01 /076 W

-----046981 140612Z /23/10

R 110640Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7903

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4383

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T // P A R A 2 L I N E 17 //

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, MY, RP

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN COMMENTS ON SABAH DEVELOPMENTS

1. ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM KOTA KINABALU FOR MANILA JULY 8, SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARRIS SALLEH TOLD REPORTERS THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF HIS TRIP WAS TO ASK PRESIDENT MARCOS TO GIVE UP THE PHILIPPINES' DORMANT CLAIM TO SABAH "AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL."

2. IN A RELATED MATTER, ON JULY 4 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATO SERI DR. MAHATHIR DENIED REPORTS COMING FROM MANILA THAT MALAYSIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE TRAINING FILIPINO MUSLIMS IN SABAH. MAHATHIR CONFIRMED THAT THE GOP HAD LODGED SUCH A COMPLAINT WITH THE GOM, BUT SAID THAT "WE HAVE CLEARED THE MATTER IN A MANNER SUITABLE WITH THAT OF ASEAN (MEMBER) NATIONS." THE ONLY REPORT OF MAHATHIR'S STATEMENT THAT WE CAN FIND IN THE PRESS WAS IN THE JULY 5 EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT-CONFIDENTIAL

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INFLUENCED NEW STRAITS TIMES. HARRIS SALLEH CLAIMS THAT ONE OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS HAS BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES, THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT HE HAS PUT AN END TO TUN MUSTAPHA'S CLANDESTINE SUPPORT FOR THE FILIPINO MUSLIMS. IT IS INTERESTING THAT HE FEELS SO STRONGLY ON THIS THAT HE WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE MARCOS TO DROP THE SABAH CLAIM WITHIN TWO WEEK OF A FORMAL MANILA COMPLAINT THAT SUCH

ACTIVITIES CONTINUE IN SABAH. (WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION  
ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON THE VALIDITY OF THE MANILA COMPLAINT. OUR  
CONTACTS ALL DENY THAT SUCH TRAINING HAS TAKEN PLACE SINCE MUSTAPHA  
WAS DEPOSED IN 1975).  
MILLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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